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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/026,144

12/21/2001

Christiaan M.H. Mets

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02/24/2006

HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC.  
101 COLUMBIA ROAD  
P O BOX 2245  
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07962-2245

EXAMINER

PADMANABHAN, KAVITA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/026,144

Applicant(s)

METS ET AL.

Examiner

Kavita Padmanabhan

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/12/03, 11/2/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-25 are pending.
2. Claims 1-25 are rejected.

### ***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "34" has been used to designate both a direct communication in Fig. 1 and a processor in Fig. 2. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the phrase "to each of the defined event and/or types, activity types" at lines 10-11 of the abstract does not appear to be in proper grammatical form. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The examiner suggests adding the word --the-- before the word "identity" at page 4, line 25.

The examiner suggests adding the word --processes-- before the phrase "are different than others" at page 5, line 11.

Appropriate correction is required. The citations above are not meant to be exhaustive, and are provided as examples. The applicant is advised to correct other similar errors as required throughout the specification.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. **Claims 1-25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The basis of this rejection is set forth in a test of whether the invention is categorized as a process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter and if the invention produces a useful, concrete and tangible result. Mere ideas in the abstract (i.e., abstract idea, law of nature, natural phenomena) are found to be non-statutory subject matter. For a method claim to pass muster, the recited process must produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

In the instant case, **Claims 1-12** recite a method but the method claimed appears to be directed towards an abstract idea and does not produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

For example, **claim 1** results in allocating storage volumes. However allocating storage does not constitute a useful, concrete or tangible result because it is merely an abstract idea and does not conclude in an actual result. **Claims 2-11** are similarly nonstatutory.

**Claims 13-24** recite a system for processing data, consisting of means for performing a method that is substantially the same as the method recited in claims 1-12.

However the means claimed all appear to consist purely of software modules, which is not statutory, per se. **Claims 14-24** are similarly nonstatutory.

**Claim 25** recites a memory media for controlling a computer comprising means for performing a method that is substantially the same as the method recited in claim 1. However the means claimed all appear to consist purely of software modules, which is not statutory, per se.

The examiner will apply prior art to these claims as best understood, with the assumption that applicant will amend to overcome the stated 101 rejections.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. **Claims 1-25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Goldring** (US 5,613,113).

In regards to **claim 1**, **Goldring** teaches a method for processing the data of a process comprising:

(a) identifying one or more events and/or activities of said data and one or more attributes thereof (**Goldring; col. 3, lines 36-58**);

(b) classifying each of said events and/or activities and each of said attributes according to a data structure that comprises an event and/or activity type and a plurality of attribute types to provide defined event and/or activity types for said events and/or activities and defined attribute types for said attributes (**Goldring; col. 8, line 60 – col. 9, line 14; Fig. 3**); and

(c) allocating one or more storage volumes to each of said defined event and/or activity types for storage and retrieval of said data by attribute type (**Goldring; col. 5, lines 2-23**).

In regards to **claim 2**, **Goldring** teaches the method of claim 1, wherein step (c) allocates at least one storage volume to each of said defined attribute types (**Goldring; col. 5, lines 2-23**).

In regards to **claim 3**, **Goldring** teaches the method of claim 2, wherein said data structure further comprises a time stamp (**Goldring; Fig. 3**), and wherein said at least one storage volume of a first one of said events is accessed according to said time stamp for storage and retrieval of said attributes corresponding to said first event (**Goldring; col. 5, lines 40-44; col. 6, lines 18-20; Fig. 3**).

In regards to **claim 4, Goldring** teaches the method of claim 2, wherein at least one attribute of a plurality of said events and/or activities is common to at least one of said defined attribute types, and wherein step (c) allocates said at least one storage volume to all of said common attributes (**Goldring; col. 8, line 60 – col. 9, line 14; Fig. 3; Fig. 2, reference characters 25, 32**).

In regards to **claim 5, Goldring** teaches the method of claim 1, wherein step (c) allocates a first one of said storage volumes for storage of values of said data for said attributes of at least a first one of said defined attribute types (**Goldring; Fig. 3; Fig. 2, reference characters 25, 32**), and further comprising compressing said data which is stored in said first one of said storage volumes according to identity of said values of said attributes of consecutive events and/or activities that have been allocated for storage in said first one of said storage volumes (**Goldring; col. 7, lines 20-61 – data of activity log is compressed and placed in the system tables based on the values of the event attributes**).

In regards to **claim 6, Goldring** teaches the method of claim 5, wherein said data structure further comprises a time stamp (**Goldring; Fig. 3**), and wherein said first one of said storage volumes is accessed according to said time stamp for storage and/or retrieval of said values, and wherein said values of a first event are retrieved from said first storage volume by using the value of a first time stamp for said first event or of a second time stamp value of a second one of said events that is earlier in time



than said first time stamp value (**Goldring; col. 5, lines 40-44; col. 6, lines 18-20; Fig. 3).**

In regards to **claim 7**, **Goldring** teaches the method of claim 1, wherein step (c) allocates a first one of said storage volumes for storage of values of said attributes of at least one of said defined attribute types (**Goldring; col. 5, lines 2-23; Fig. 3**), wherein said attributes of said at least one defined attribute type are static, and further comprising optimizing data storage in said first one of said storage volumes by omitting storage of a static value (**Goldring; col. 5, lines 7-16; col. 5, line 67 – col. 6, line 6 – doesn't store the other attributes related to the user table that changed – only the update and the sequence number, because the others didn't change, and are therefore static**).

In regards to **claim 8**, **Goldring** teaches the method of claim 1, wherein said process is one of a plurality of processes, and wherein steps (a), (b) and (c) are performed for each of said plurality of processes using said data structure (**Goldring; col. 1, lines 25-52; col. 6, lines 26-29**).

In regards to **claim 9**, **Goldring** teaches the method of claim 8, wherein at least two of said plurality of processes are different from one another (**Goldring; col. 1, lines 25-52; col. 6, lines 26-29**).

In regards to **claim 10**, **Goldring** teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising presenting data values of different ones of said events and/or activities that are defined as different event and/or activity types in any one of a plurality of formats (**Goldring**; col. 6, lines 18-20; col. 5, lines 48-59; col. 9, lines 52-60; Fig. 3).

In regards to **claim 11**, **Goldring** teaches the method of claim 10, wherein said plurality of formats are selected from the group consisting of: row format, column format and chart format (**Goldring**; Fig. 3).

In regards to **claim 12**, **Goldring** teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising developing a map structure for mapping diverse external names of said attributes and/or field contents thereof to a common internal attribute name and/or field content (**Goldring**; col. 5, lines 30-31; col. 5, line 59 – col. 6, line 6; col. 6, lines 54-65; Fig. 3; Fig. 4; – updates, regardless of what type or how they are referred to externally, by a user for example, are internally stored as update operations; also, a table constitutes a map structure).

**Claims 13-24** are rejected with the same rationale given for claims 1-12, respectively.

**Claim 25** is rejected with the same rationale given for claim 1.

***Conclusion***

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kavita Padmanabhan** whose telephone number is **571-272-8352**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kavita Padmanabhan  
Assistant Examiner  
AU 2161

  
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February 18, 2006

  
**UYEN LE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**